

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 16, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 16, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. New claims 14-16 have been added to recite aspects of the invention. Applicants submit that the amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bixler et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,212,559 (hereinafter *Bixler*), in view of *Tarbox et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,020,889, (hereinafter *Tarbox*). The Examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify *Bixler* by adding SCSI port as taught by *Tarbox*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970). If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). See also MPEP § 2143.03.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the references, either alone or combined, do not teach, show or suggest all the claim limitations. *Bixler* discloses a system and method for configuring a communication network of multiple interconnected computers, and more particularly, a communication network in which a network administrator can configure or reconfigure the network from a host computer connected to the network using a graphical interface to specify logical and topographical relationships among network computers and their users. (*Bixler*, Col. 5, lines 22-40). *Bixler* does not teach, show or suggest a method for adding storage space to a server. The sections of *Bixler* cited by the Examiner do not pertain to adding storage space to a server, but rather are

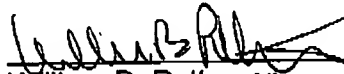
directed to configuring a network in general. Applicants submit that *Bixler* does not teach, show or suggest the features cited in the claims which pertain specifically to adding storage space to a server.

Tarbox discloses a system for displaying a computer managed network layout. *Tarbox* also describes a typical computer which includes an I/O adapter which may be a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) device that communicates with a disk storage device such as a hard drive. However, *Tarbox* does not teach, show or suggest a method for adding storage space to a server.

Applicants submit that the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, do not teach show or suggest a method for dynamically linking a storage space to a network server, as claimed in Independent claim 1 and those depending therefrom, or a method for linking a storage space to an active server, as claimed in Independent claims 7 and 11, and those depending therefrom. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-13 are patentable over *Bixler* in view of *Tarbox*. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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